

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02134 231456Z

61-60

ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 USPS-02 /019 W

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R 231413Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6820

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMTM DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY SANAA

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 2134

DOD FOR CHIEF OF STAFF USAF AND HQ USAFE POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICE, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, SA

SUBJECT: APO SERVICES FOR SANAA

1. WHEN AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD WAS IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION LAST MONTH, HE SPOKE WITH OFFICIALS AT DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ABOUT PROVIDING SANAA WITH APO MAIL SERVICES. AMONG THE POINTS HE MADE WERE (A) YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC NOT A MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CONVENTIONS AND HENCE US MAIL WILL GENERALLY NOT ACCEPT PACKAGES OR MAIL ADDRESSED TO YEMEN. IF THEY DO, YEMENI ADMINISTRATION IS SUCH THAT MAIL WILL RARELY REACH ADDRESSEE; (B) MAIL SERVICES PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE VIA APO AT KAGNEW IN ASMARA TO BE DISCONTINUED THIS MONTH IN ANTICIPATION THE BASES' CLOSURE IN JULY; (C) SEA POUCH TRANSIT VIA STATE DEPARTMENT FACILITIES WILL OFTEN TAKE UP TO NINE MONTHS OR MORE TO REACH PORT OF HODEIDA FROM EAST OR WEST COASTS.

2. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD WAS TOLD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE THAT LIKELIHOOD OF ITS ESTABLISHING AN APO IN SANAA WAS EXTREMELY SMALL, EVEN THOUGH A RESIDENT DAO IS TO BE ASSIGNED IN SANAA THIS SUMMER. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JIDDA 02134 231456Z

INDICATED TO HIM, HOWEVER, THE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO

COVER THE COSTS OF SANAA'S MAIL SERVICES OR TO REIMBURSE ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY WILLING TO PROVIDE THEM.

3. EMBASSY HAS CONDUCTED INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW POST COULD HELP AMEMBASSY SANAA. ONE POSSIBILITY WE HAVE CONSIDERED IS USE OF JIDDA'S APO FOR MAIL THAT WOULD BE COLLECTED BY EMBASSY AND PASSED ONWARD TO SANAA VIA EMBASSY AIR POUCH. SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT--TO COVER A TOTAL OF PERHAPS 75 SANAA RECIPIENTS (INCLUDING DEPENDENTS)--WOULD PLACE CONSIDERABLE STRAIN ON LIMITED APO FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL NOW IN JIDDA. ADDITIONAL MANPOWER WOULD BE NEEDED--PERHAPS TO BE REIMBURSED TO DOD BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OF STORAGE AND HANDLING WOULD BE LESSENED IF SANAA'S MAIL COULD BE SEPARATELY PACKAGED IN THE US PRIOR TO SHIPMENT. THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENT, HOWEVER, COULD STILL PLACE CONSIDERABLE STRAINS UPON USMTM'S LIMITED FACILITIES FOR TRANSPORT OF APO PACKAGE MAIL FROM DHAHRAN TO JIDDA.

4. ACCORDINGLY, TO AVOID THIS PROBLEM SUGGEST DEPARTMENT AND DOD MAY WISH TO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF MAKING DHAHRAN'S APO (09616) THE EXIT POINT FROM THE APO SERVICE FOR MAIL ADDRESSED TO SANAA. AS IN CASE OF JIDDA, ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL WOULD PERHAPS BE REQUIRED AT USMTM AND CONGEN DHAHRAN. THE INCREASED BURDEN ON MAIL FACILITIES OF USMTM DHAHRAN, HOWEVER, COULD BE LESSENED IF (A) SANAA'S MAIL WERE TO ARRIVE IN ITS OWN POUCHES; (B) WERE PICKED UP ON ARRIVAL BY THE CONGEN'S C&R PERSONNEL. AMCONGEN DHAHRAN--UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH SAUDIA--WOULD THEN FORWARD SANAA'S MAIL VIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE AIR POUCH.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ACTION OR INFO ADDRESSEES MIGHT HAVE AS TO HOW US AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA COULD HELP TO PROVIDE MAIL SERVICES TO US MISSION IN YEMEN.

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